

Khapra Beetle

NOT KNOWN TO
OCCUR IN IDAHO



Common Name: Khapra Beetle

Scientific Name: *Trogoderma granarium* Everts

Introduction

The khapra beetle, *Trogoderma granarium* Everts, is one of the world's most feared stored-product pests. In fact, it has been nominated as one of the 100 worst invasive species worldwide (Lowe et al. 2000). Its discovery in California in 1953 led to a massive control and eradication effort which extended until 1966 and cost the government \$15 million (Kerr 1981). Established infestations are difficult to control because of the beetle's ability to live without food for long periods of time and to survive on foods of low moisture content, its habit of crawling into tiny cracks and crevices and remaining there for long periods, and its relative tolerance to many surface insecticides and fumigants. Therefore, it is important to prevent the khapra beetle's introduction into uninfested areas (Lindgren et al. 1955). Currently, all infestations discovered in the U.S. have been eradicated. Any possible adults or larvae of this species discovered in the U.S. should be immediately reported to your state regulatory service (Buss and Fasulo 2006).

Appearance

The oval beetles are dark brown, have smudgy yellowish-brown and reddish-brown transverse stripes on the wing covers and are covered with fine hairs. The male is about 2 mm long; the female, up to 3 mm long. The yellowish-brown, spindle-shaped larvae grow to a length of up to 5 mm; they have thick, reddish brown hairs characteristic bunches of tail hairs growing at the rear end. Pupation takes place in the last larval skin which is split open along the back.

Life History

A female deposits up to 125 eggs, these being placed singly in the infested goods. The larvae can withstand unfavorable conditions such as lack of nutrition and low temperatures for long periods. The entire development period is 30 days at 90° F, about 2 months at 77° F, and a number of years under unfavorable conditions.

Damage

The larva is a very serious stored product pest; the beetle itself does no damage. It is found in warehouses, sites, mills, breweries and malt factories. It attacks all types of grain, malt cereal products, oilseed cake, groundnuts, fish meal, etc. Grain kernels are often hollowed out until only the husk remains the edges of jute sacks are often found to be thickly populated with larvae in infested stores.

Other Resources

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN667>

<http://ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/khb/facts.txt>

www.agric.wa.gov.au/pls/portal30/docs/folder/ikmp/pw/ins/pp/sp/fs02200.pdf

